

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



JUNE 2017

SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

WHO WILL RIDE ON SLS?



MEET NASA'S NEWEST ASTRONAUT RECRUITS

After receiving a record-breaking number of applications to join an exciting future of space exploration, NASA announced its largest astronaut class since 2000 on June 7. NASA chose five women and seven men as the agency's new astronaut candidates after evaluating more than 18,300 applicants. In August, the astronaut candidates will report to Johnson Space Center in Houston to begin two years of training.

After training, the astronauts could be assigned to any of a variety of missions, including future deep space missions on

SLS and the Orion spacecraft. Astronauts are scheduled to fly on the second integrated flight of SLS and Orion, Exploration Mission-2. NASA and its contractors are one integrated rocket team, working on two rockets: the Block 1 launch vehicle for the first uncrewed mission and the Block 1B launch vehicle for the second mission, which may carry some of the astronauts in the photo.

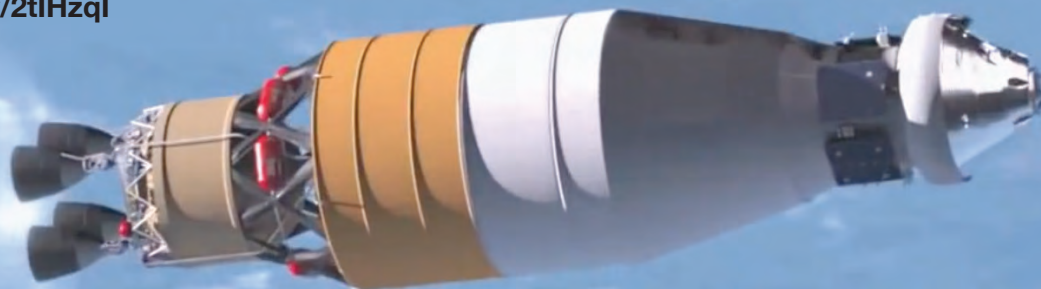
Read the full story: bit.ly/2sq7OhH

NASA AWARDS DYNETICS UNIVERSAL STAGE ADAPTER CONTRACT

NASA has selected Dynetics, Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama, to develop and build a universal stage adapter for the second configuration of SLS, Block 1B. The adapter will connect NASA's Orion spacecraft to SLS and provide additional cargo space for the future configurations of the rocket powered by an exploration upper stage.

Under the contract, Dynetics will design, develop, test, evaluate, produce and deliver the first universal stage adapter for the second integrated mission of SLS and Orion, known as Exploration Mission-2. This mission will be the first test flight with crew aboard NASA's new deep space exploration systems.

Read the full story: bit.ly/2tIHHzq



SLS CORE STAGE PRODUCTION FOR FIRST FLIGHT CONTINUES

Throughout NASA's 43-acre rocket factory, the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, engineers are building all five parts of the SLS core stage. For the first flight, major structural manufacturing is complete on three parts of the core stage: the forward skirt, the intertank and the engine section. Test articles, which are structurally similar to flight hardware, and are used to qualify the core stage for flight, are in various stages of production and testing.

Continued on next page:



“One of the most challenging parts of building the world’s most powerful rocket has been making the largest rocket stage ever manufactured for the first time,” said Steve Doering, the SLS stages manager at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. “The 212-foot-tall core stage is a new design made with innovative welding tools and techniques.”

Read the full story: bit.ly/2sGWeml

DRY STRUCTURES MANAGER HEATHER HANEY BRINGS CORE STRENGTH TO SLS

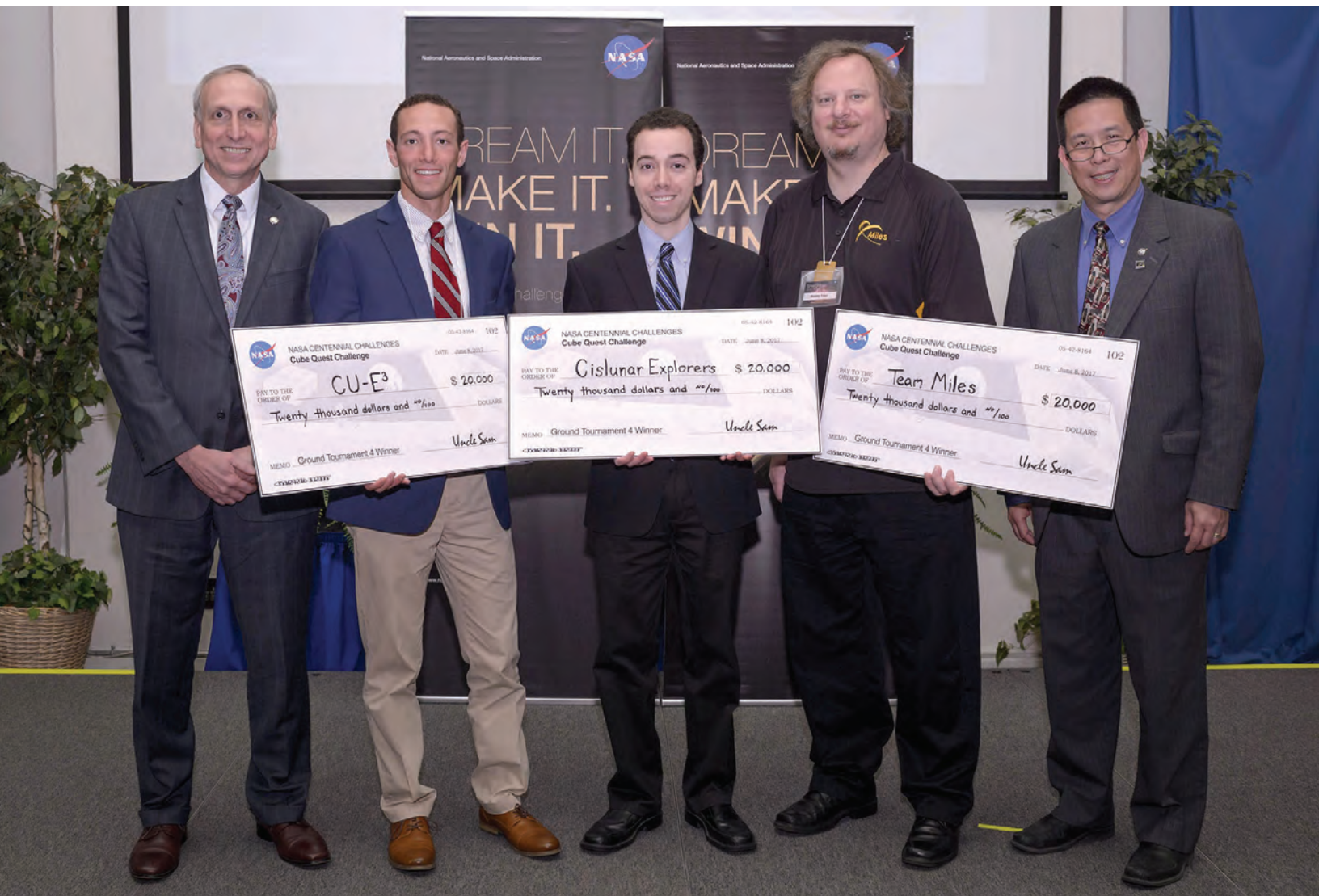
I am
building SLS



“I was crazy about the space shuttle as a kid, and I knew I wanted to be among the workers who help America’s astronauts travel safely to space and back. I decided to become an engineer like my dad,” said SLS Dry Structures Manager Heather Haney. “As an engineer in the Space Launch System stages office, I’m part of the team making sure the world’s most powerful rocket is strong enough to handle the extreme forces of spaceflight.”

Read the full story:
bit.ly/2sHCGhD

LET THE GAMES BEGIN! THREE DIY CUBESATS SCORE RIDES ON SLS



In June, NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) awarded rides for three small spacecraft on SLS, as well as \$20,000 each in prize money to the winning teams of citizen solvers competing in the semi-final round of the agency's **Cube Quest Challenge**.

The three winning teams secured space to launch their CubeSats on Exploration Mission-1, the first integrated flight of SLS and the Orion spacecraft. Once deployed, the CubeSats will vie for a share of a \$5 million prize in the first-ever competition in deep space.

The three teams are:

- **Cislunar Explorers**, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- **CU-E³**, University of Colorado in Boulder
- **Team Miles**, Fluid & Reason, LLC, Tampa, Florida

Read the full story here: bit.ly/2tNI2Zk



SLS PROGRESS THRILLS HOMETOWN CROWD

Retired astronaut Robert “Hoot” Gibson welcomes the hometown crowd at Huntsville’s Big Spring Park to the fourth annual NASA in the Park celebration. More than 7,500 people viewed an RS-25 rocket engine, heard Gibson speak about his five spaceflights and participated in fun and educational activities for the entire family.

SPACEFLIGHT PARTNERS: *Atec, Inc.*

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 250

LOCATION: *Houston, Texas*



WHAT THEY DO FOR SLS:

Atec has been in business 64 years and specializes in engineering and manufacturing for the aerospace industry. Atec was recently awarded NASA 2016 and NASA Johnson Space Center Subcontractor of the Year. A critical supplier to RS-25 prime contractor Aerojet Rocketdyne and core stage prime contractor Boeing, Atec supports spaceflight exploration by providing complex mechanical and electrical systems for SLS, the International Space Station and commercial launch vehicles.

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF NASA’S NEW LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR DEEP SPACE:

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COMING UP:

RS-25 hot fire testing continues

First booster motor segment cast for second flight

Orion stage adapter test article ships to
Lockheed Martin for testing